



South Carolina
**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

February 15, 2024, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Council Members Present (13):

Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Matthew Ferguson
Jessica Mackey
Jack McBride
Janie Neeley
Dorothy Priester
Roger Pryor

Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Council Members Absent (112)

Rep Terry Alexander
Rep. Shannon Erickson
John Hayes

Sen. Greg Hembree
Constance Holloway
Robert Kerr
Mike Leach
David Lisk
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Dave Morley, Chairman
Wes Wooten
Dr. Brenda Williams

Attendees (63)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Andy Jensen
Ben Gibson
Betty Gardiner
BJ Norris
Brandie Maness
Candi Lalonde
Chelsea Richard
Christine Zamboki
Delores Rock
Derek Cromwell
Donna Alexander
Donna Mason
Dwana Doctor
Elizabeth Dudek
Fotima Tukhtasunova
Gina Beebe
Jackson Wilkens
Jade Wright
Janice Kilburn
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kare Roach

Kathy Fitzgerald
Kenna Hoover
Kenya Johnson
Kerry Cordan
Kim Chariker
Kristine Jenkins
Laura Baker
Lexi Jones
Lis Guimaraes
Louise Johnson
Mark Barnes
Martha Strickland
Mary Campbell
Meredith Dickens
Michele Bowers
Natalie Tackitt
Pauletta Plowden
Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rachel Amrhein
Rachel Cerngersky
Robbie Pruitt Woody
Rozen Pinto
Ryan Shinn
Sally McClellan
Samantha Ingram
Santasha Ingram

Sarah Crawford
Sarah Lewis
Shadie Hallow
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
Shelly Nicholson
Sherry Posadas
Tamantha Kotlier
Tricia Gordon
Tricia Richardson
Vasanthi Rao



The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m.

Dr. Amy Williams asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. McBride provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Mackey, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes. Ms. Mackey provided the motion. Dr. Simmer provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the 2024 priorities relating to *2024 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan*. Dr. Simmer proposed to amend the language to Priority 1 to include the following:

To reduce achievement gaps, including, but not limited to disparities based on race, ethnic group, and income and to ensure that more eligible children are enrolled in high quality programs, increasing participation in programs must remain a priority in 2024.

Dr. Simmer made a motion to approve the amended language to Priority 1, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Ms. Diggs made a motion to amend the language to Priority 1 to the following:

1. Increase participation in federal, state, and locally funded preschool programs

Ms. Mackey provided the second and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the 2024 priorities relating to *2024 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan* with the approved amendments provided by Dr. Simmer and Ms. Diggs. Dr. Simmer provided the motion, Mr. Pryor provided the second, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Oliver shared that over the last few months Interagency Collaboration Committee reviewed the progress report information and put together the 2024 priorities for the ECAC's consideration.

Dr. Richard provided an update on the progress and initiatives for the South Carolina Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS). Dr. Richard asked the Board for their preference on viewing the data governance workgroup's policies and procedures for context when they are provided the policy for approval. The Board decided to view the procedures for context when they review the policies for consideration of approval.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the activities of the ECAC where she highlighted recruitment for the Family Voice Council. She shared analytics for the Palmetto Pre K portal and the First Five SC portal.

Dr. A Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bank provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 2:56 pm.